

as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Chris' actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Christopher E. Hudson in the Official Record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Chris' can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless America.

#### OPPOSITION UNDER ATTACK IN BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, in recent days the Belarusian Prosecutor General's office opened criminal proceedings against one of the leaders of the embattled Belarusian democratic opposition, Anatoly Lebedka. Anatoly, who is chairman of the United Civic Party, has been accused of defaming Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko during an interview with Russian television last month where he linked the recent Belarusian-Russian dispute over gas deliveries with the Belarusian authorities' failure to build an efficient economy. Anatoly also mentioned a shadow budget replenished through illegal arms sales and the cover-up of the truth about political disappearances in Belarus.

Given the pattern of behavior of the Lukashenko regime, it is crystal clear that this case is politically motivated and designed to suppress dissent. Lebedka's United Civic Party is a member of the Popular Coalition Five Plus, an opposition bloc which is planning to field candidates in this fall's parliamentary elections.

The action against Anatoly Lebedka and on the opposition fits squarely within a pattern of the suppression of independent thought and action in Belarus. Lukashenko's repression of those who would dare to challenge him has only intensified over the past year. Just last week, a criminal case was opened against the Belarusian Helsinki Committee chairperson Tatiana Protska and accountant Tatiana Rudkevich. This comes after politically-motivated economic sanctions were imposed on the Committee re-

cently. Also within the last few days, a court seized property of Iryna Makavetskaya, a correspondent for one of Belarus' leading independent newspapers, Beloruskaya Delovaya Gazeta.

Lukashenko has a choice—he can continue to act as a pariah, suppressing the voices of democracy in Belarus, or he can realize that the only way to reverse his self-imposed isolation from the international community and increasingly, from his own people is to end his offensive against democracy and civil society.

Meanwhile, it is essential that the United States back up its rhetorical support for democratic forces in Belarus through concrete assistance. Earlier this Congress, I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act, a measure with bipartisan support designed to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Belarus. In light of the campaign of repression against democratic forces in Belarus, timely consideration of the Belarus Democracy Act is warranted. I urge colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### CLOSING THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, three weeks ago the Senate passed an amendment during consideration of the gun immunity bill which would close the gun show loophole. I supported this amendment because I believe it is common sense gun safety legislation.

Under current law, when an individual buys a handgun from a licensed dealer, there are federal requirements for a background check to insure that the purchaser is not a person prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm. However, this is not the case for all gun purchases. For example, when an individual wants to buy a handgun from another private citizen who is not a licensed gun dealer, there is no requirement to ensure that the purchaser is not in a prohibited category. This creates a loophole in the law, which makes it easy for criminals, terrorists, and other prohibited buyers to evade background checks and buy guns. This loophole is the gateway to the illegal market because criminals know they are not subject to a background check and no record is made of the sale.

I cosponsored the amendment offered by Senators JACK REED and JOHN MCCAIN, which would close the gun show loophole, because I believe it is a critical tool in preventing guns from getting into the hands of criminals and other ineligible buyers. This amendment would have simply applied existing law governing background checks to individuals buying firearms at gun shows. Preventing easy and unchecked access to guns is critical in preventing gun violence.

This amendment also had the support of major law enforcement organizations including the International Asso-

ciation of Chiefs of Police, the National Troopers Coalition, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the Police Executive Research Forum, the Major Cities Chiefs, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Black Police Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association.

The gun industry immunity legislation would have provided unprecedented protection from liability to gun manufacturers and dealers, even in cases where their own gross negligence or recklessness led to someone being injured or killed. I opposed the bill and it was defeated in the Senate. However, before the bill was defeated, the gun show loophole amendment passed with bipartisan support. Given that, I hope the Senate will take up and pass gun show loophole legislation this year.

#### CBO REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-233 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report, which is now available, be printed in the RECORD for the information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, March 22, 2004.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1107, the Recreational Fee Authority Act of 2004.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,  
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 1107—RECREATIONAL FEE AUTHORITY ACT  
OF 2004

Summary: S. 1107 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to establish, charge, and modify admission and user fees at units of the National Park System. Section 3 of the bill would allow the NPS to retain and spend all offsetting receipts collected under this authority without further appropriation. Both the authority to collect and to spend NPS recreation receipts would become effective on January 1, 2006, the day after the existing recreation fee demonstration program expires. (Created in 1996, the demonstration program authorizes the NPS and other federal land management agencies to charge higher recreation fees than would otherwise be permitted and to spend the proceeds.)

The effect of S. 1107 on total recreation fee receipts and spending would partly depend on how the NPS would use the bill's authorities in conjunction with current law following the expiration of the current demonstration program. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the NPS would use the authorities provided under S. 1107 to continue the